

count of his exceeding piety, is to this day called *The father of the faithful*. The religion of that great man appears to have been preserved in this line: for Isaac, who was the grandfather of Joseph, and Jacob his father, were both renowned for their steady adherence to the worship of Jehovah. Indeed, in that age, when men called images of wood and stone their gods, and worshipped them as such, those persons who dared to reject and oppose their impious customs, were deserving of the highest regard.

Joseph was the first of Rachel's children, but the youngest, excepting one, of his father Jacob's family.

His mother died when he was very young; and there is reason to suppose that he had no recollection of her person. However, though he was deprived of a pious and tender mother, he enjoyed the peculiar care of a very affectionate father.

father. And perhaps it was on account of the love he bore to Rachel, that Jacob delighted more in this son than in all his other children. Those parents are not to be commended who set more value upon some of their children than others, as it frequently produces a great deal of distress afterwards; which we shall perceive was the case in this family. We must confess, however, that Jacob had great reason to be pleased with Joseph, who was a very wise and good child, and loved to listen to his father's instructions, which we have reason to fear, his brothers did not; for you ought to understand, that Jacob had twelve sons, whose names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Manasseh, Zebulun, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. Indeed the last cannot be included in our observations on the other brethren at present, as he was at this time too young to be much noticed in history.